

# **ALCOHOL BEVERAGE ORDINANCE**

Public Meeting: Overview and Listening Session  
Wednesday, August 23

# AGENDA

- Our Process
- Ground rules
- Background
- Purpose of Ordinance
- Data on Licensed Alcohol Establishments
- Enforcement Actions
- Listening Session: Additional Revisions to Ordinance?
- Timeline and Next steps



# OUR PROCESS



Host public  
meetings &  
obtain feedback

Finalize  
possible  
revisions

Present to  
Council



# GROUND RULES

- Respect one another
- One person speaks at a time
- If you disagree, propose a solution
- Keep an open mind
- Try not to repeat a previous comment—use comment cards
- Be concise, stay on topic (Parking Lot)



# BACKGROUND

- August 2016: Revisions to Alcohol Beverage Ordinance Approved by City Council
  - Complete re-write of the previous ordinance
  - Omitted redundant provisions and eliminated those addressed in State law to include:
    - Licensing matrix
    - Requirement for proof of financial responsibility
    - Public safety plan
    - Distance requirements
    - Server permits
    - Licensed alcoholic beverage caterers
    - Samples
    - Event venues
    - Underage permits and requirements
- January 1, 2017: Revisions to Alcohol Beverage Ordinance went into effect



# PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

Establish reasonable and ascertainable standards for the regulation and control of alcohol beverages in a manner to promote health, safety and general welfare of the community, while giving effect to zoning and land use plans, preserving residential areas with reasonable consideration for their character and with the general intent of promoting desirable living conditions and sustaining the stability of neighborhoods and property values.



# ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN 2017

- January 2017: Amendment to prohibit alcoholic beverage license establishments from allowing employees or customers to engage in public nudity
- April 2017: Council approved not enforcing server permits [bar cards]
- June 2017: Commence revisions process



# CURRENT CHANGE UNDER CONSIDERATION

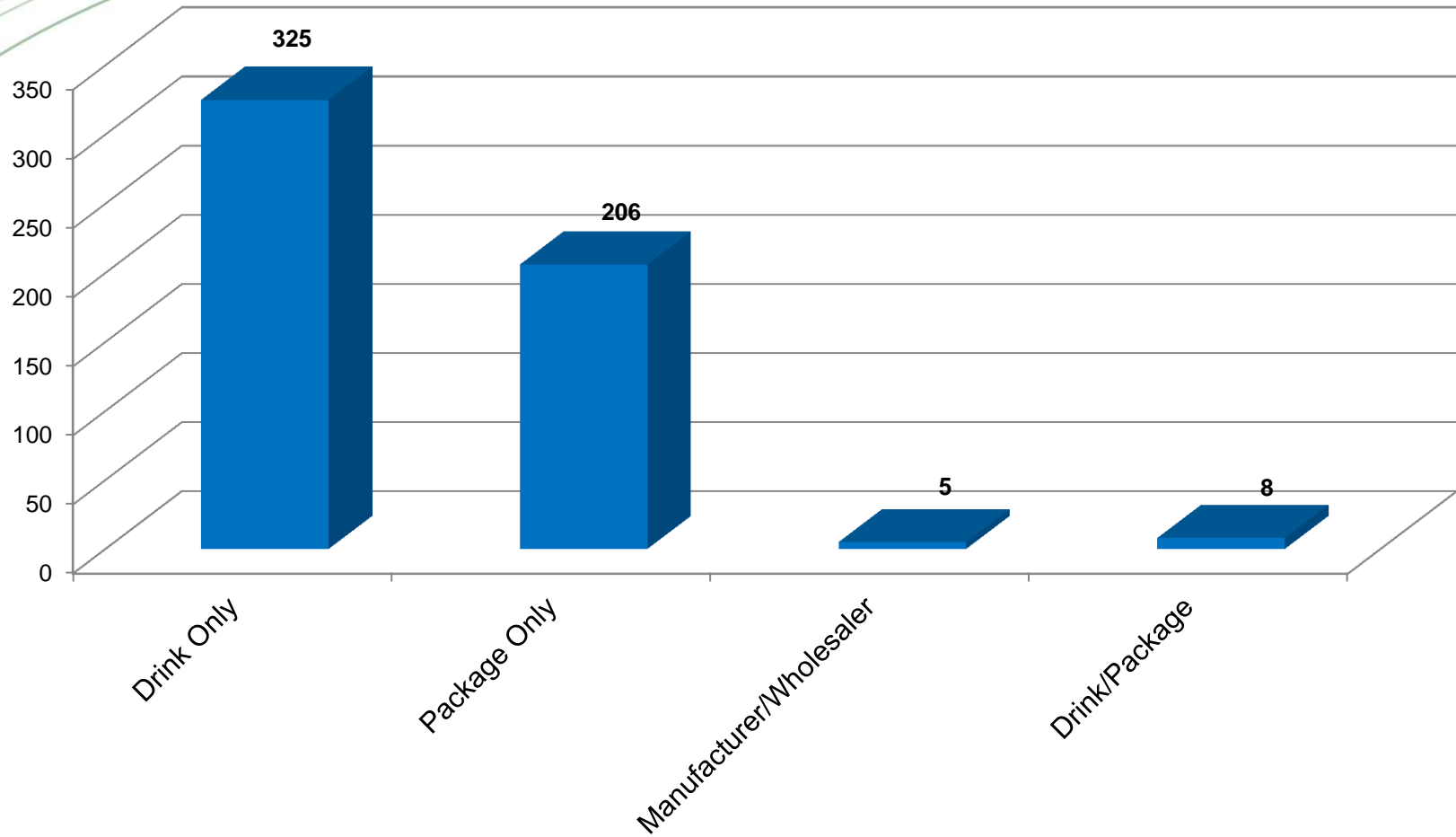
August 31:

- Amend Savannah's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance to avoid conflict with State law.
- The new law, effective September 1, 2017, allows breweries and distilleries to sell directly to consumers
- Brewers will also no longer be required to offer paid tours that come with limited beverage samples
- Amend Sections 6-1204 and 6-1206
- Add Sec. 6-1217





## Number and Type of Alcohol License Establishments (544)



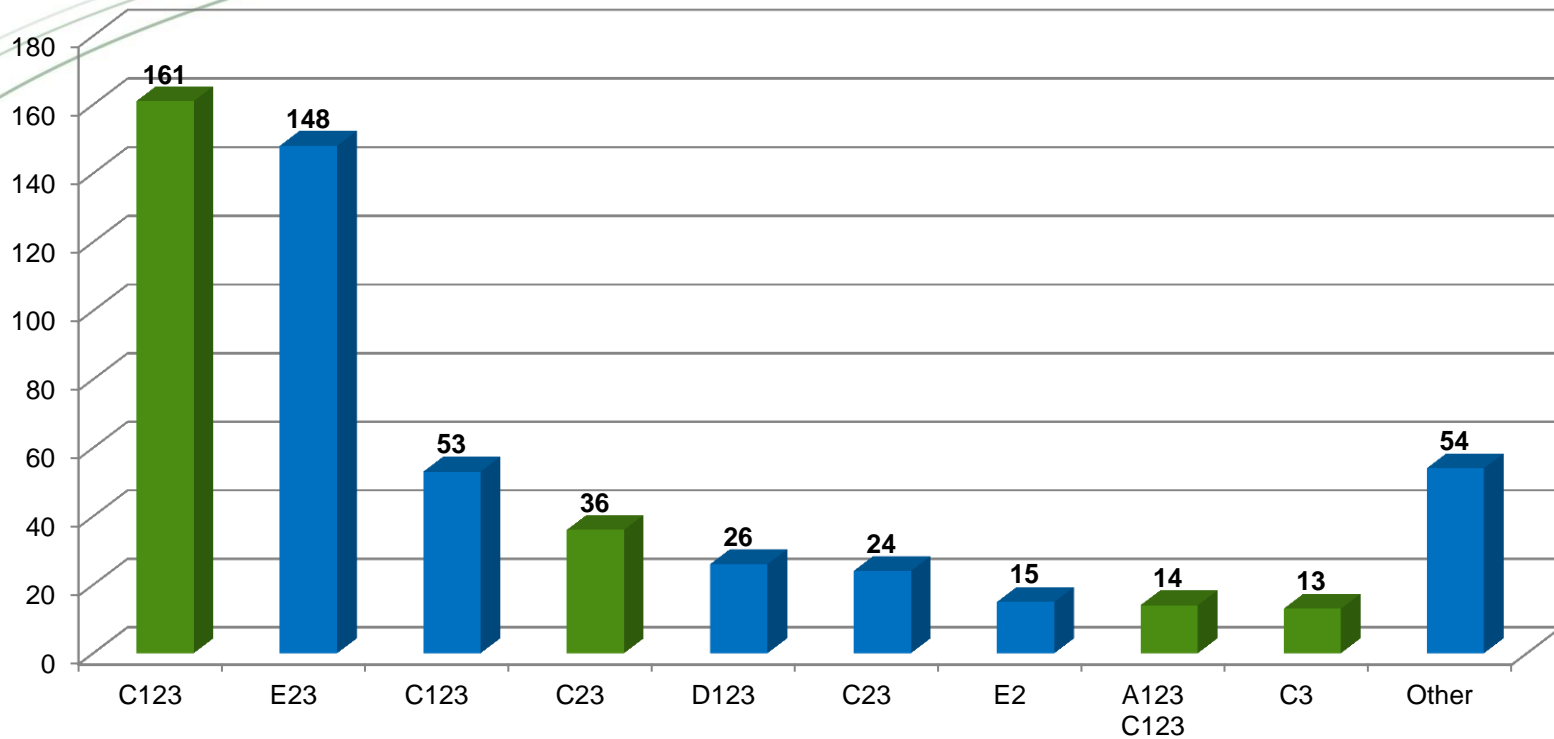
# LICENSE CLASS TYPES

- A – Licensed Caterer
- B – Manufacturer (Brewer)
- C – Retail Dealer (on-premises consumption)
- D – Retail Package Store (off-premises consumption)
- E – Ancillary Retail Package Store
- F – Wholesale
- G – Complimentary Service
- H – Samples
- I – Underage Permit



## TYPE BY CODE

\*Green Bars Indicate Sunday Sales



Other includes: Manufacturer, Wholesalers, Brewers, etc.

1 – Distilled Spirits

2 – Malt Beverage

3 – Wine



# **ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMPLIANCE (ABC) UNIT**

- Comprised of officers and civilians who work closely with the said partnerships
- Educates alcohol establishments on how to comply with the local and state alcohol ordinances.
- Works with the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state on underage alcohol sales
- Conducts operations for special events or festivals where alcohol-related disturbances tend to occur



# MISSION OF THE ABC UNIT

- To improve the quality of life in Savannah Chatham County area through the fair and impartial enforcement of laws and regulations governing the serving, selling, distribution, and consumption of alcoholic beverages



# ABC DUTIES

- Process alcohol license applications, public safety plan and criminal background checks for recommendation
- Process special event permits (Chatham County)
- Investigate complaints
- Conduct semi-annual and covert compliance checks
- Prepare reports and attend Administrative Hearings after numerous violations
- Prepare reports, testify, and attend Show Cause Hearings at City Council
- Attend neighborhood meetings concerning alcohol issues and businesses that are petitioning for an alcohol license



# POSSIBLE REVISIONS?

- Continue to require server permits [bar cards] and revise process
  - Sec. 6-1215. Employee regulations for retail dealers, caterers and other dispensing alcohol for consumption on premise
  - Require managers, servers, bartenders, doorpersons, or other employee responsible for handling, serving, mixing or dispensing alcohol
  - Provide fingerprints and submit to criminal background check
  - Complete server training prior to issuance of permit
  - Keep register of employees required to attend mandatory server training and server permit and copy of certificate, photo id and permit

## DISCUSSION?



# POSSIBLE REVISIONS?

- Clarify language with under age drinking when kitchen closes
  - Sec. 6-1219. Persons Under the age of 21
  - No less than 50% of annual gross sales derived from sale of prepared food:
    - When open to the public, mode of operation remains unchanged and full menu service available, persons under 21 not permitted at the bar

**DISCUSSION?**





# POSSIBLE REVISIONS?

- Examine Sunday sales
  - Sec. 6-1211 (c) Hours of Operation; Sunday Sales.
  - At least 50% of total annual gross sales derived from sale of prepared meals or food during the previous year
  - Possess or applied for business tax certificate to operate a restaurant
  - Prepared meals or food served on premises during the time in which the establishment is open to the public

**DISCUSSION?**



# POSSIBLE REVISIONS?

- Consider changing sample sizes
  - Sec. 6-1204 (p)
  - Gratis provision by retail package or ancillary retail package store of one ounce or less portion of wine/malt beverage

## DISCUSSION?



# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS?



# TIMELINE

- Public Meeting: Aug 23, 2PM & 6PM  
Civic Center
- Public Meeting: Sept 6, 2PM & 6PM  
Coastal Georgia Center
- Submit Report to City Manager: Sept 15
- Present to City Council:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Sept 28
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Oct 12
- Outreach on Revisions: Oct 15-Dec 31



# NEXT STEPS

- Keep informed via the City's website:
  - [www.savannahga.gov/alcohol](http://www.savannahga.gov/alcohol)
- Submit feedback to:
  - [alcohol@savannahga.gov](mailto:alcohol@savannahga.gov)
  - 912-525-1500

